

2013 ATC Biennial – A Progress Report

As an A.T.-maintaining club, CMC is part of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). ATC biennial meetings, which are held in odd-numbered years, are the one opportunity for members to meet each other, hike parts of the A.T. they might not normally get to, and learn how the ATC operates. Typically, about 900-1000 ATC members attend. The meeting rotates up and down the Trail.

On July 1-8, 2011, it will be held at Emory and Henry College in Emory, VA, about two hours drive from Asheville. For details, go to the ATC website (www.appalachiantrail.org) and click on the Virginia Journeys 2011 link on the home page.

In 2013 the ATC Biennial will be hosted by CMC and the other four ATC clubs in Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. 2013 may seem like a long time away, but several CMC members have been working for nearly two years planning the meeting. Here's what we've accomplished to date:

- The meeting will be held at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC on July 19-26, 2013.
- We've split the responsibilities for organizing the meeting. CMC will take responsibility for activities at the Western Carolina site: food, housing, etc. CMC members will also be helping other clubs carry out their responsibilities.
- We've come up with a name, *ATC Cullowhee 2013*, and slogan for the meeting, *Our Land, Our Trail, Our Community*.
- We've identified the people who will lead the CMC's portion of the effort. These include:
 - Lenny Bernstein, who is chairing the Steering Committee organizing the meeting;
 - Bruce Bente and Carroll Koepplinger, who are CMC's representatives on the Steering Committee;
 - Carroll Koepplinger, who will be keeping track of all of CMC's contributions to this meeting;
 - Tish Desjardins, who will organize camping at the meeting;
 - Kathleen Hudson, who will deal with Western Carolina's food service at the meeting;
 - Marcia Bromberg, who will deal with Western's housing people at the meeting;
 - Carroll Koepplinger, who will organize the dozens of signs that will be placed on campus to direct meeting attendees to the various activities; and.
 - Lenny Bernstein, who will handle any other problems with Western.

- Also, Danny Bernstein will take charge of organizing excursions (non-hiking activities) at the meeting, and Bruce Bente will coordinate CMC's contribution to the meeting's hiking schedule.

It takes hundreds of volunteers to make a meeting like this happen. Tish, Kathleen, Marcia and Carroll are going to need people to help them carry out the responsibilities they've undertaken. Danny and Bruce will need excursion and hike leaders. If you can possibly help, either before or at the Biennial meeting, please tell Lenny Bernstein (Lsberns@att.net) or one of the other people who've already volunteered. I've volunteered at past biennial meetings and enjoyed the opportunity to work with others who are committed to the A.T. In addition, volunteers will get a tee-shirt and other rewards, and if the meeting is a financial success, CMC will share in the profits.